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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Madalena DATE TYPED 03/07/05 HB 977
 SHORT TITLE Observance of American Indian Day SB _____
 ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Indian Affairs (DIA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 977 changes the American Indian Day from the first Tuesday of February to the first Friday in February.

Significant Issues

The Indian Affairs Department comments.

The intent of the proposed legislation is to change American Indian Day from the first Tuesday in February to the first Friday in February so it will not conflict with school board elections, presidential caucuses and traditional Pueblo feast days, which may fall on the same day depending on the year. Each year on American Indian Day hundreds of Indian citizens of New Mexico converge upon the New Mexico State Capitol to recognize the many contributions of the American Indians to the economic and cultural heritage of all the citizens of the United States. Furthermore, this is an important day when tribal leaders give their “State of the Nations” addresses to New Mexico State legislators in a joint session of the legislature. However, having American Indian Day on the first Tuesday in February precludes some Indian citizens from joining the yearly festivities due to the competing priorities mentioned above.

MW/yr